



American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut Population In the United States

North Carolina Department of Administration

N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs • 217 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27603-1336 • (919) 733-5998

Population

According to the 1990 U.S. Census, the American Indian population (including Eskimos and Aleuts) in the nation totaled 1,959,000.

There are 500 American Indian tribes in the United States, but the only tribes with more than 100,000 persons are the Cherokee, Navajo, Chippewa and Sioux. In 1990, approximately 16 percent of all Indians reported themselves to be Cherokee, 12 percent as Navajo, and 6 percent each as Chippewa and Sioux. The Choctaw, Pueblo and Apache have populations of at least 50,000. The Choctaw account for 4 percent of the American Indian population. The Iroquois Confederacy, Lumbee and Creek all have 43,000 or more persons. Fourteen tribes have populations between 10,000 and 21,000 persons. Most tribes have populations of less than 10,000.

The 10 states with the largest number of American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts are listed below:

Oklahoma	252,000	Washington	81,000
California	242,000	North Carolina	80,155
Arizona	204,000	Texas	66,000
New Mexico	134,000	New York	63,000
Alaska	86,000	Michigan	56,000



Twenty-two percent (437,431) of all American Indians live on reservations or trust lands. The number of American Indians living on the 314 reservations and trust lands varies substantially. Only the 10 reservations listed below had populations of 7,000 or more American Indians in 1990. Most reservations had populations of fewer than 1,000.

Navajo, <i>Arizona - New Mexico - Utah*</i>	143,405
Pine Ridge, <i>Nebraska - South Dakota*</i>	11,182
Fort Apache, <i>Arizona</i>	9,825
Gila River, <i>Arizona</i>	9,116
Papago, <i>Arizona</i>	8,480
Rosebud, <i>South Dakota</i>	8,043
San Carlos, <i>Arizona</i>	7,110
Zuni Pueblo, <i>Arizona - New Mexico</i>	7,073
Hopi, <i>Arizona</i>	7,061
Blackfeet, <i>Montana</i>	7,025

* Includes trust lands.

Approximately 51 percent of the 437,431 American Indians living on reservations and trust lands live below the poverty level.

Age

- Thirty-nine percent of the American Indian population is under 20 years old, compared with 29 percent of the nation's total population.
- About 8 percent of all American Indians are 60 years old and older, compared with 17 percent for the total population.
- The median age of the American Indian population is 26 years, considerably younger than the U.S. median age of 33 years.

Education

- Sixty-six percent of the 1,080,000 American Indians 25 years old and over are high school graduates or higher, compared with 75 percent of the total population.
- About 9 percent of American Indians have completed bachelor's degrees or higher, compared with 20 percent of the total population.

Income

- The median family income of American Indians is \$21,750, compared with \$35,225 for the total population.
- Twenty-seven percent of all American Indian families are headed by females without husbands. Fifty percent of these families are in poverty, compared with 31 percent of all families headed by females without husbands.
- Approximately 31 percent of American Indians live below the poverty level. The national poverty rate is approximately 13 percent.
- Twenty-seven percent of American Indian families live in poverty, compared with 10 percent of all families in the nation.

For more information contact:
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